

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5 to 7 and 17 remain for consideration in this application. Claims 2 to 4 and 10 to 13 have been cancelled; and Claims 8, 9, and 14 to 16 have been withdrawn. Claims 5 to 7 and 17 have been allowed.

Claim 1 continues to be the only claim currently under rejection in this application. This claim has been amended with this response, in order to clarify the terminology of the claim. Claim 1, in the final Office Action, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by each of the United States patents to Sheldon No. 6,108,914 or Kitz No. 5,979,064. The Examiner has stated that Sheldon teaches a line end termination aperture (96 and 98) on the top surface of the circular flange of the head. The Examiner has also stated that Kitz has a line end termination aperture (nos. 96 and 98) on the top surface of the flange of Kitz.

In both Sheldon and Kitz, similar structure is employed to retain a length of line, the ends of which extend outwardly from the head on opposite sides, in a serpentine path on the head, by means of retainer wedges which are located at approximately the midpoint of the line. The two opposite ends of the line extend radially outwardly from the flange. The retainers, such as the retainers 96 and 98 of Sheldon and also the retainers 96 and 98 of Kitz simply act as wedges in the form of a part of a serpentine

1 line guide path which cooperates with other wedges in that line
2 guide path to impede the movement of line outwardly from the
3 opposing edges of the head or flange and to hold it in place during
4 use. There is no termination aperture, however, for receiving one
5 of the ends of the line. In the line of each of these patents, the
6 wedges hold the line at a point between the two ends, typically at
7 the midpoint of the cut length of line.
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9
10 Independent Claim 1, the only claim under rejection in this
11 application, has been amended to recite that the top loading fixed
12 length line trimmer head for a string trimmer machine uses line
13 segments of a predetermined length having first and second ends.
14 Among other elements, Claim 1 now recites at least one line
15 termination aperture for an end of a line on the top surface of the
16 circular flange. Neither Sheldon nor Kitz have an aperture which
17 is designed to receive an end of a line. The term "termination"
18 which is used in Claim 1 is defined in Webster's *Third New*
19 *International Dictionary*, Copyright 1961, as "end in time or
20 existence", or "the act of terminating; act of setting bounds or
21 bringing to an end or concluding". The synonym for this word is
22 also shown as the word "end". In this context, the wedges for
23 engaging line at some point intermediate its two ends are not line
24 end terminating apertures. Claim 1 specifically recites at least
25 one termination aperture for an end of a line on the top surface of
26

1 the circular flange. Applicant respectfully submits that this
2 specifically claimed element, as reworded in the present amendment,
3 is not present or suggested in either of the cited references.

4
5 The basis for the rejection of a claim for a lack of novelty
6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is clearly set forth in MPEP §2131 as
7 specifically set forth in applicant's response of February 25,
8 2005. For that reason, this section of the MPEP is not re-quoted
9 here.

10
11 It is important to note, however, that MPEP §2131 requires the
12 identical invention to be shown in as complete detail as contained
13 in the claim, and that the elements must be arranged as required by
14 the claim. Applicant once again respectfully traverses the
15 rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) of Claim 1 as anticipated by
16 Sheldon or Kitz. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of
17 these references include every element of Claim 1 in as complete
18 detail as Claim 1 and arranged as required by the claim.

19
20 Neither of these references include at least one termination
21 aperture for an end of a line. Wedges for intermediate portions of
22 a length of line are present in both of these patents. Nothing,
23 however, is shown or suggested in either patent for ending or
24 terminating one end of the line at some point on either of the
25 heads of Sheldon or Kitz. The line in both of these patents passes
26 entirely through the heads, with one end on one side and one ~~side~~ *end*

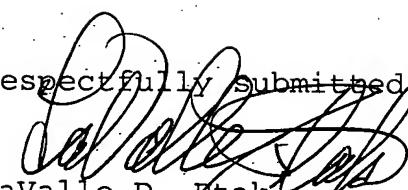
1 on the other. Only an intermediate portion of the line is wedged
2 in the head in either of these patents. There is nothing in the
3 form of a line end termination aperture, or in the form of a
4 termination aperture for the end of a line in either of these
5 patents.

6 Since there is no termination aperture for an end of a line in
7 either Sheldon or Kitz, there is no support for the anticipatory
8 rejection of independent Claim 1. Since the only rejection of Claim
9 1 is one of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), applicant
10 respectfully submits that, as amended, and contrary to the
11 Examiner's position, the rejection of Claim 1 clearly is
12 unsupported, as detailed above. As a result, the rejection of
13 Claim 1 is traversed as improper and failing to meet the
14 requirements of MPEP §2131. Therefore, applicant respectfully
15 requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1; and respectfully
16 requests allowance of Claim 1, along with previously allowed Claims
17 5 to 7 and 17. A formal Notice of Allowance of all of the claims
18 now appearing in this application is respectfully solicited.

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22 If for any reason the Examiner does not consider this response
23 in condition for allowance, the courtesy of a telephone interview
24 with applicant's undersigned attorney is respectfully requested.
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2 The telephone number is (480) 419-9019.
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Respectfully submitted,


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